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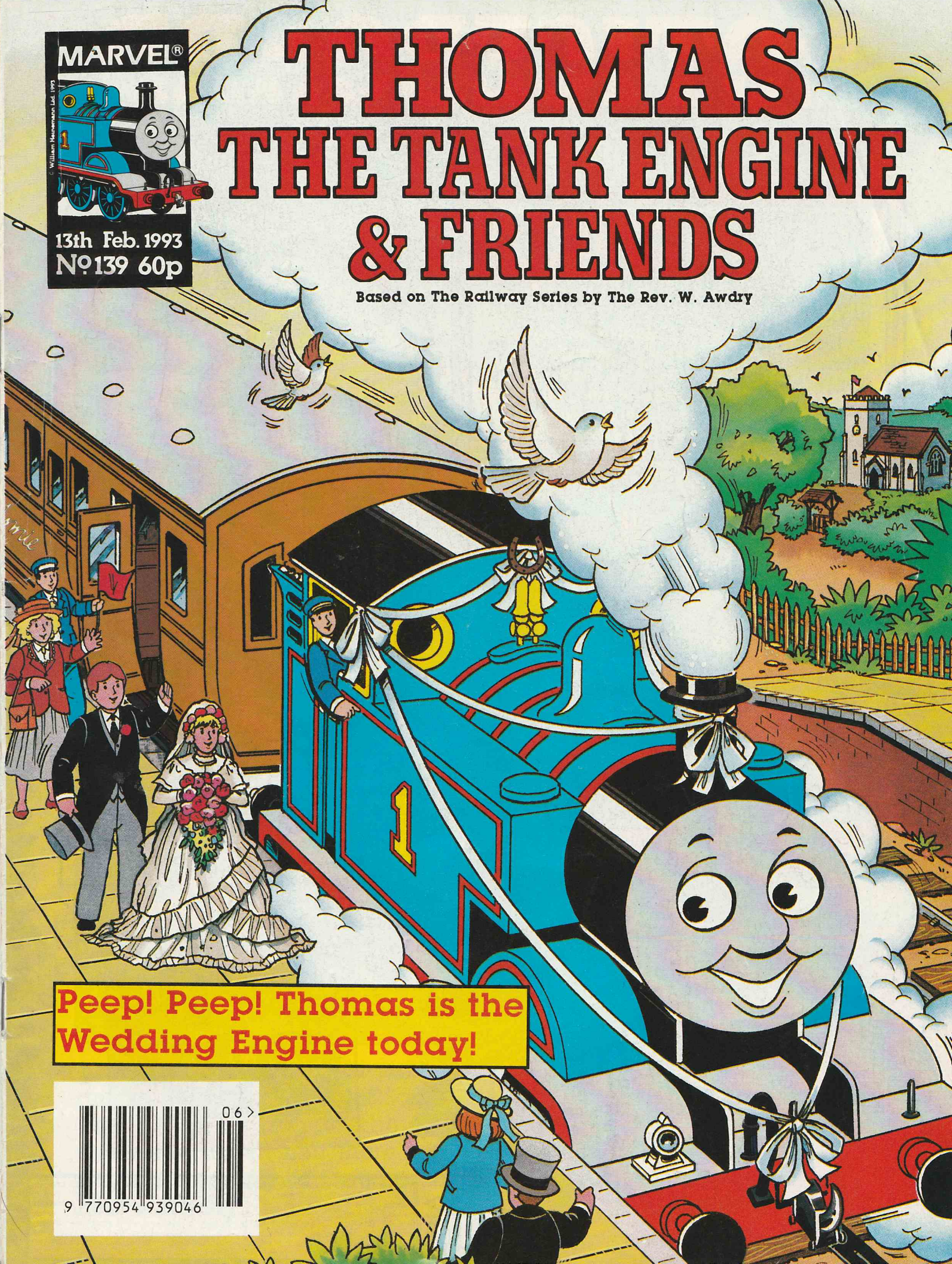
13th Feb. 1993
No 139 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



Peep! Peep! Thomas is the Wedding Engine today!

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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! The Fat Controller has many important tasks for his engines! For example, Toby is needed to do important jobs by the quarryline. When the Fat Controller has an unusual task to do, he will ask his most special engines to help him. In the story that begins on page 3, the Fat Controller has to choose a special engine for a very special event! Peep! Peep!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine! You will have the chance to win some fantastic puzzle games, courtesy of *Michael Stanfield ltd*, including **Alphabet Playtrays, Floor Puzzles** and **Picture Dominoes!**

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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THOMAS TOKEN

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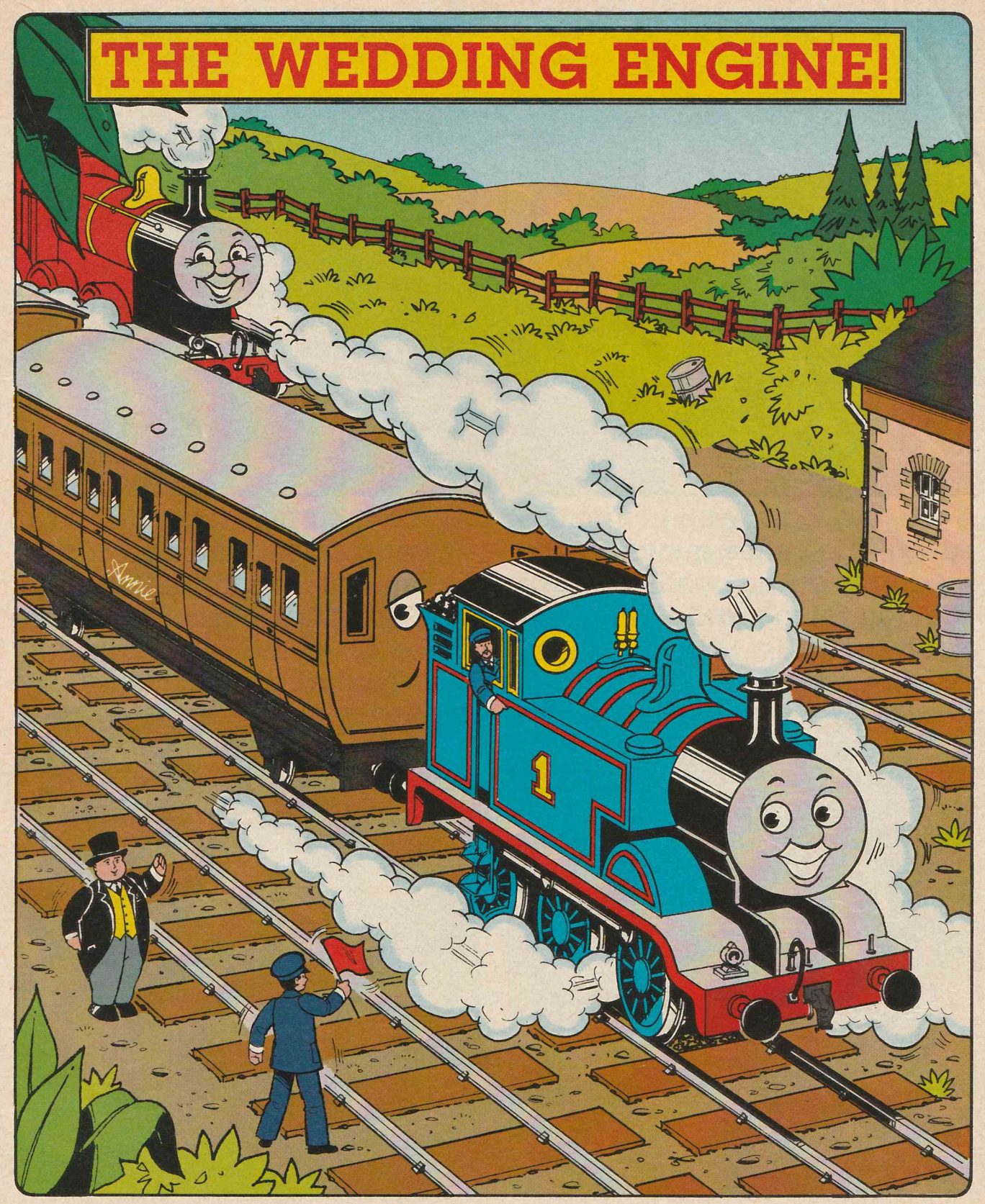
THE WEDDING ENGINE!

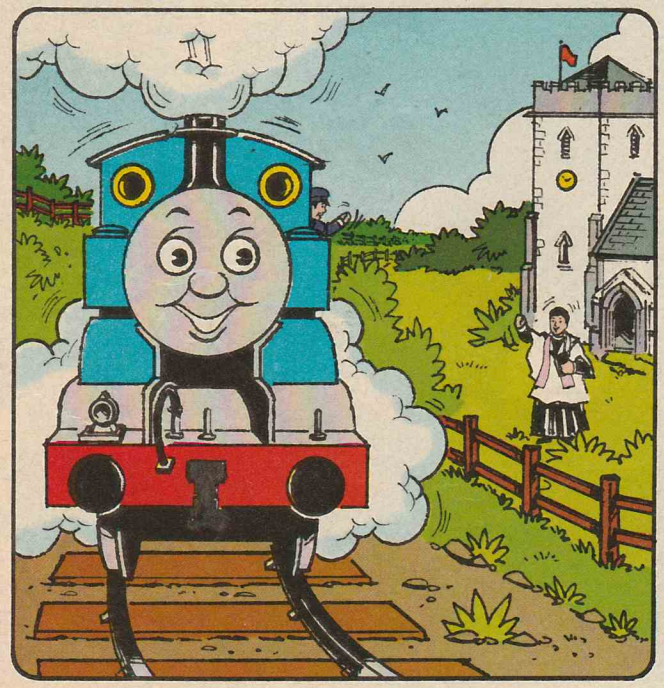


1. It was a bright and sunny morning on the Island of Sodor. The Vicar called on the Fat Controller to tell him there was to be a wedding at the church, next Saturday.

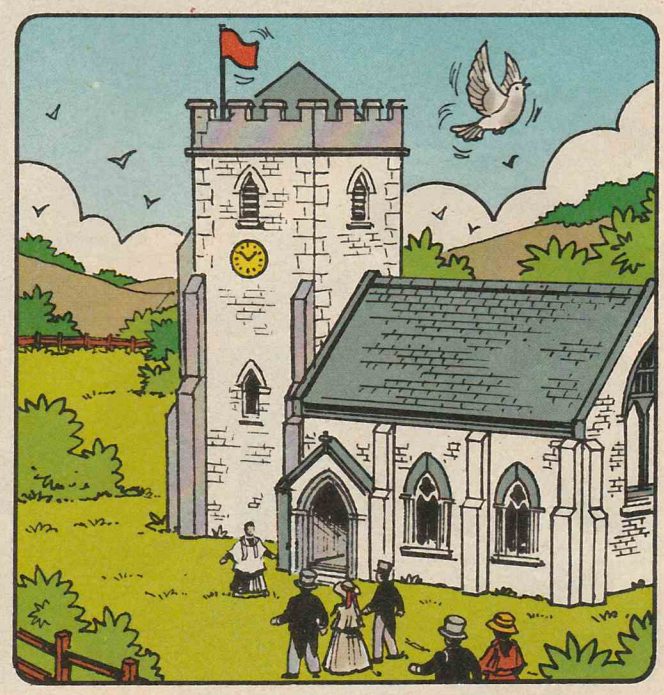
2. The Fat Controller agreed to send Thomas to collect the guests. Thomas was cleaned until his paintwork gleamed in the sun. Then he rolled proudly out of the Main Station yard.

3. At the Big Harbour, Thomas saw a ship by the quayside. The wedding guests walked down the gangplank and made their way towards him. They all looked very smart indeed.

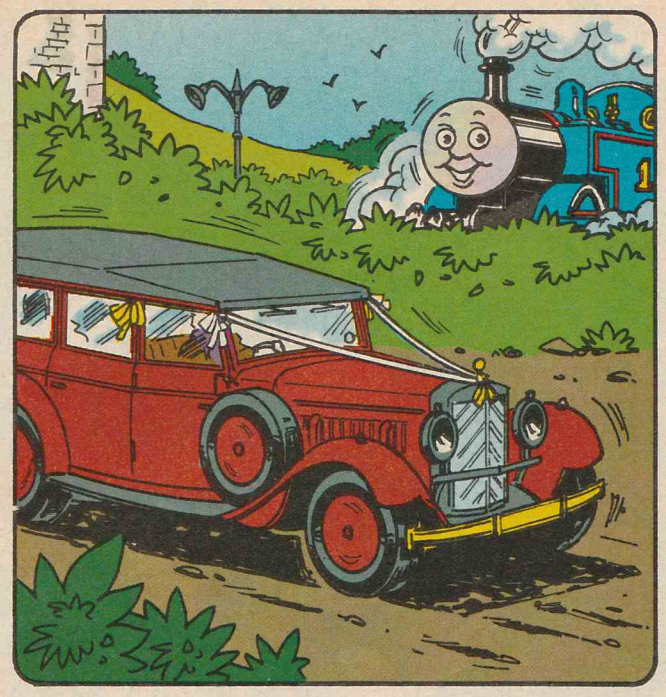
4. The men had top hats and a flower in their buttonholes. The ladies wore bright dresses and colourful hats. The guests sat down in Annie and Clarabel, then Thomas set off.



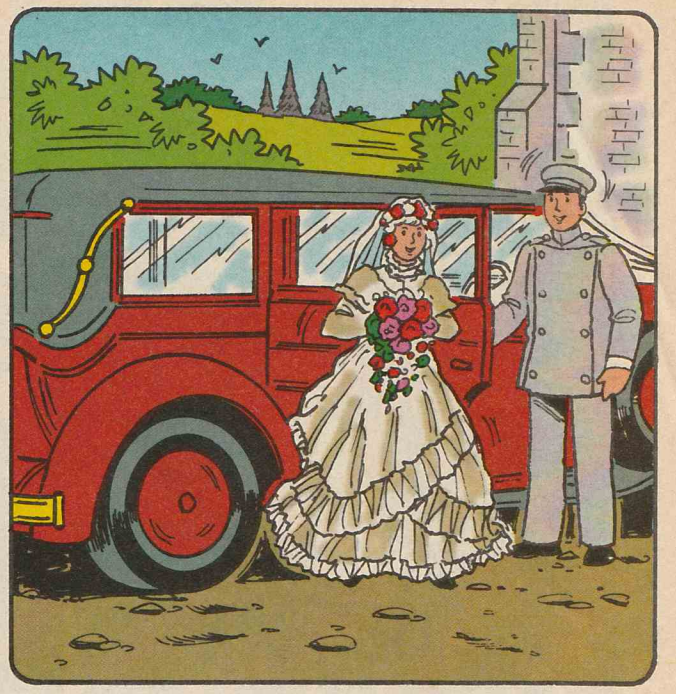
5. "We must get everyone to the church on time, Thomas!" called his driver. Thomas chuffed along eagerly. He had never been to a wedding before. The Vicar was standing outside the church.



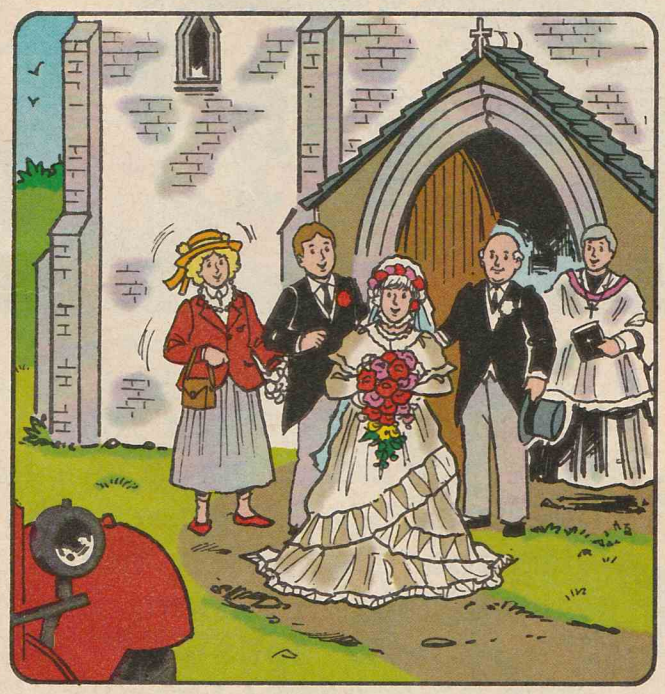
6. Thomas stopped at a station nearby to let his passengers off. The guests walked over to the church as its bells rang loudly. DING-DONG! "Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas, excitedly.



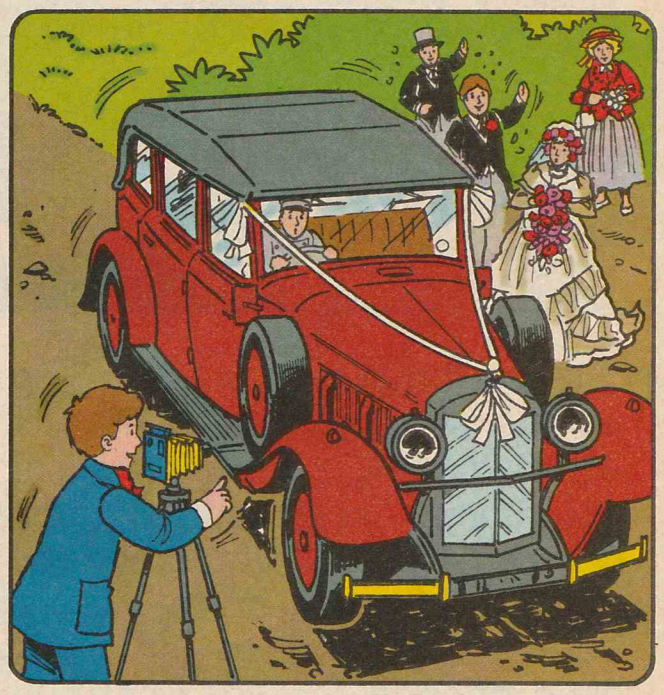
7. A big car, with a long, white ribbon tied to the front, pulled up at the church. "Gracious!" cried Thomas. "That's a splendid car!" "It's the wedding car!" explained his driver.



8. "It is bringing the bride!" he said. Thomas thought carrying the bride was the most important task of all. She stepped from the car and walked slowly into the church.



9. Thomas waited in a siding for the wedding to finish. He was to take the guests to a party afterwards. The wedding car and its driver waited as everyone came out of the church.



10. A photographer took pictures of the married couple and their guests threw confetti over them. Meanwhile, the driver of the wedding car went to start it up but the motor would not work.

11. The bride was waiting to go to the reception at a hotel in Wellsworth. "I'm very sorry!" said the driver. "The wedding car has broken down!" The bride was upset. Thomas's driver had an idea and spoke to the Vicar, who phoned the Fat Controller. Everything was quickly arranged. The ribbon was untied from the wedding car and fixed to Thomas instead.

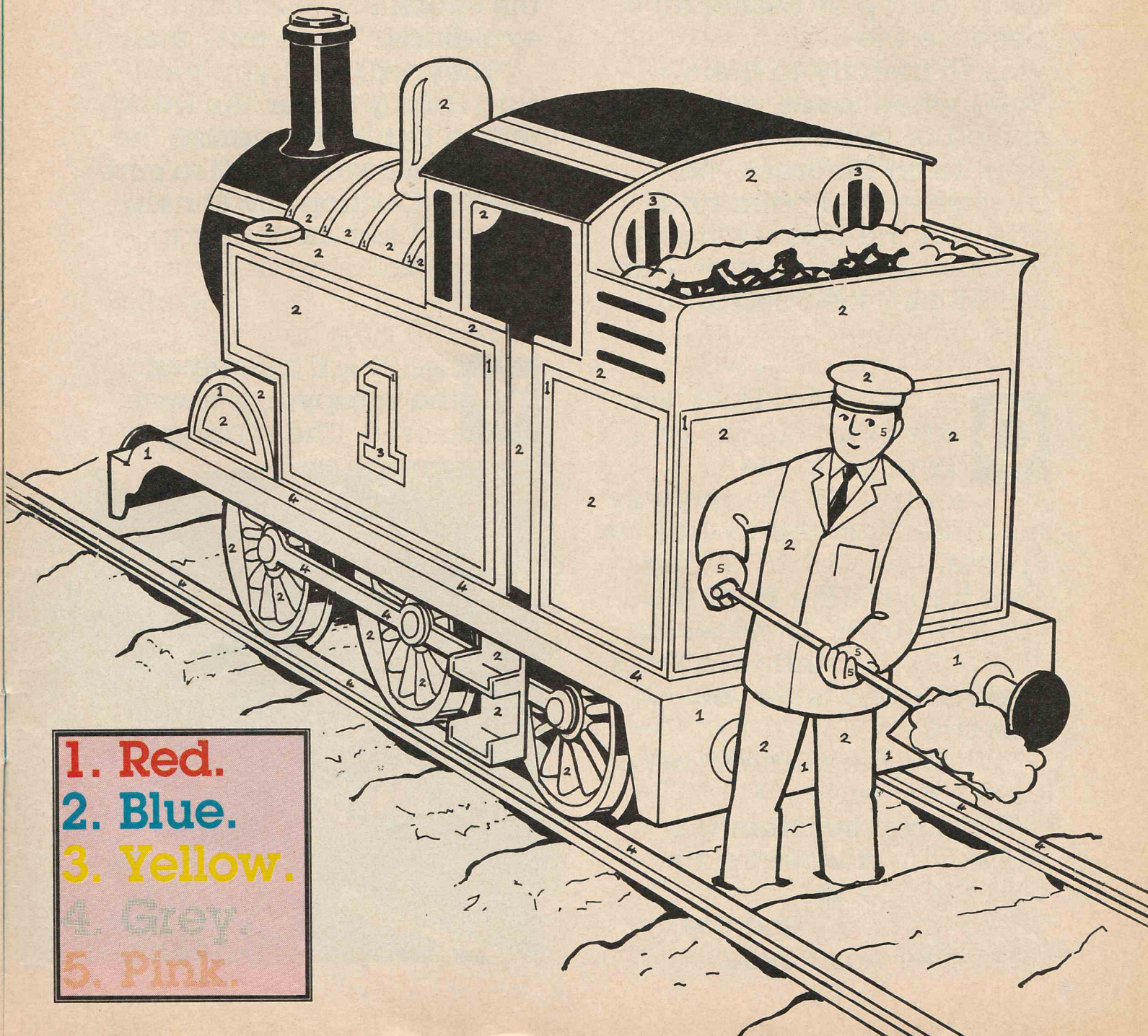
12. "Thomas will take you to the reception!" the Vicar told the bride. She was pleased. All the guests thought it was a grand idea too. The newly married couple stepped aboard Annie. The guests followed until Thomas's carriages were full. He steamed out of the station, puffing with pride. "Fancy me carrying the bride!" chuckled Thomas. "I'm a wedding engine!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the boat ride!

COLOUR BY NUMBERS!

To make this picture come alive, colour each shape from one to five!



1. Red.
2. Blue.
3. Yellow.
4. Grey.
5. Pink.

The Special Stationmaster!

It was going to be a very busy day on the Island of Sodor. All the engines puffed busily up and down the lines on the Fat Controller's railway. They called at the stations to deliver passengers or goods. There was one station they liked to stop at best of all because the Stationmaster was so friendly to them. Even when loads were spilled or there was other trouble on the track, he always stayed calm and cheerful. He had a kindly word for every engine. They called him the Special Stationmaster.

One morning, Duck was taking an old disused, carriage to the scrapyard. On the way, his driver stopped to visit the Special Stationmaster and give him a letter from the Fat Controller. The Special Stationmaster thanked Duck and read the letter, but he was sad.

"What's the matter?" asked Duck's driver.

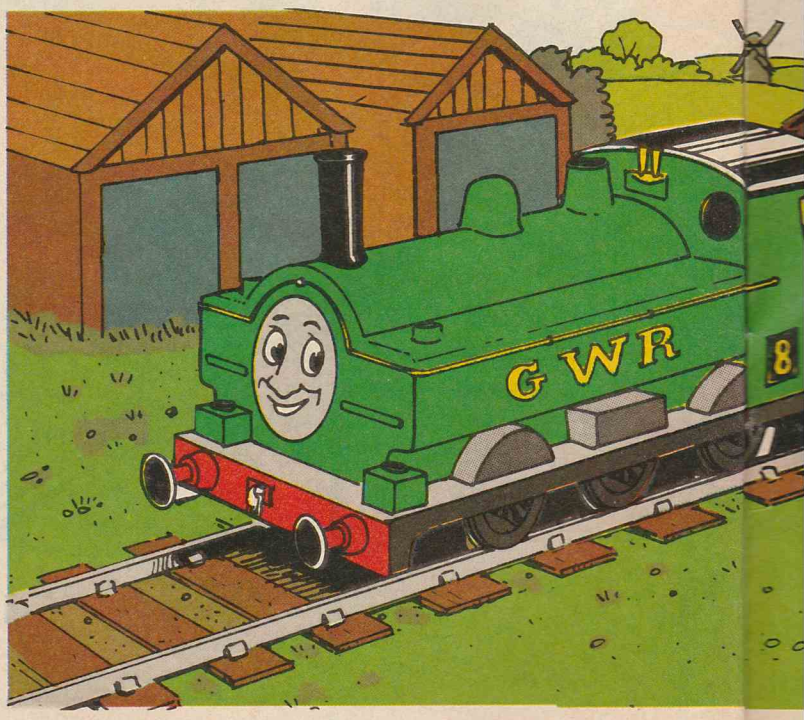
"I am retiring from the railway in a week's time," said the Special Stationmaster," and the Fat Controller has kindly arranged for me to live in a house at Wellsworth!"

Duck did not understand why the Special Stationmaster was unhappy.

"If I go to live in Wellsworth, I won't see my friends, the engines, puffing past my window each day," the Special Stationmaster explained. "I will miss them!"

"They will miss you too," said Duck's driver. As Duck pulled out of the station, he called to his driver. "I'm sure the Fat Controller will help, if we tell him how unhappy the Special Stationmaster feels!"

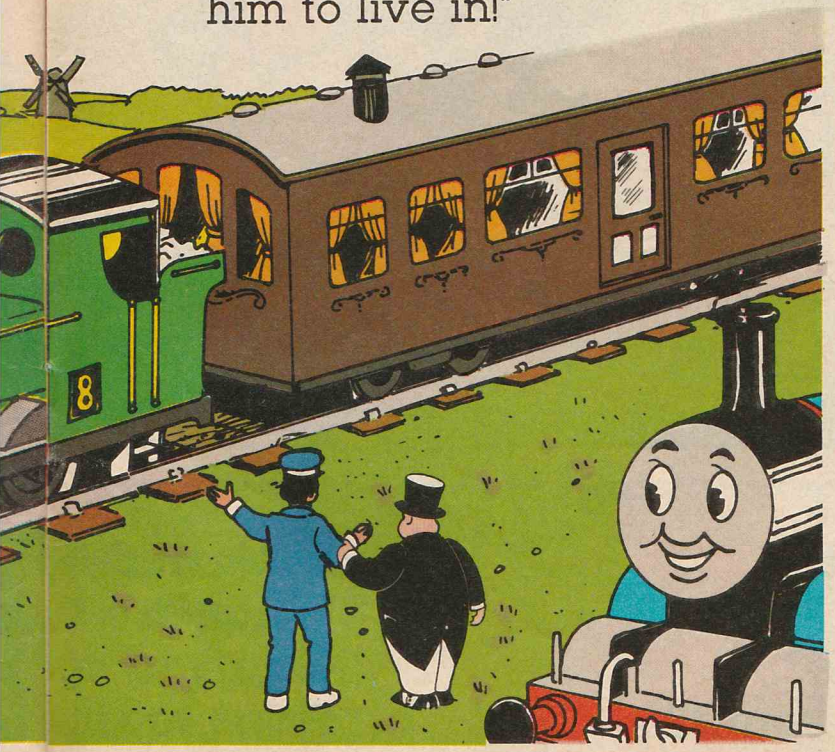
When Duck arrived at the scrapyard, it was closed. The manager



had mixed up the day the old carriage was to be delivered. Duck returned with it to the Main Station yard. He told the other engines about the Special Stationmaster going to live in Wellsworth. They were glum. They huffed and puffed slowly about their work. The Fat Controller went to find out why they were not working efficiently.

"Please, sir," began Gordon importantly, "we are all worried about the Special Stationmaster. He doesn't want to leave his station-house."

"Dear me!" said the Fat Controller. "There isn't a spare one on the railway for him to live in!"



"It's a shame this old, spare carriage isn't a house!" said Duck.

"Gracious!" cried the Fat Controller, who had an idea.

He told Duck to deliver the carriage to the Works. There it stayed until the day of the Special Stationmaster's retirement. Then the Fat Controller announced he had a surprise for him and asked Duck to collect the old carriage. As Duck pulled it into the yard, the engines gasped. They hardly recognised the carriage. It looked splendid. It's paintwork shone. There was a new roof with a chimney on top and curtains at the windows! The Fat Controller invited the Special Stationmaster to look inside.

"It's like a house on wheels!" he said.

"It's your new home," replied the Fat Controller. "The engineers fitted it out specially for you. Duck will take it to a field near your old station. Then you can watch the engines go by every day, as usual!"

The Special Stationmaster was delighted. The engines were pleased too.

"The Special Stationmaster deserves a special home!" they agreed. **THE END!**

Feeding th

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
Can you see the bird table?
How many birds can you count?

Look at Steph
What are they
Can you see t
Point to the sn

he birds!

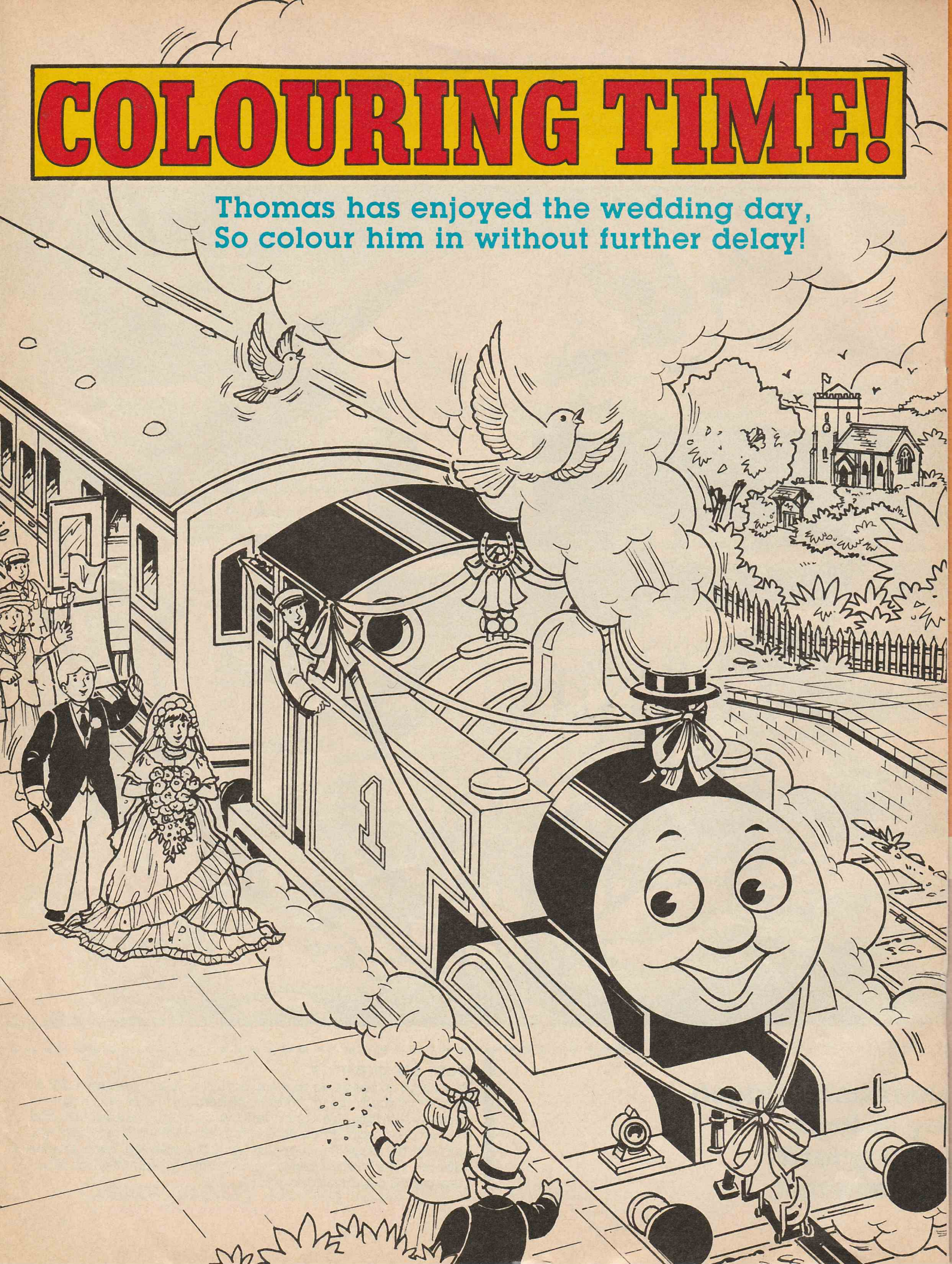
tephen and Bridget!
they doing?
see the guard?
he snowman!

Note for parents
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Cross country runners!

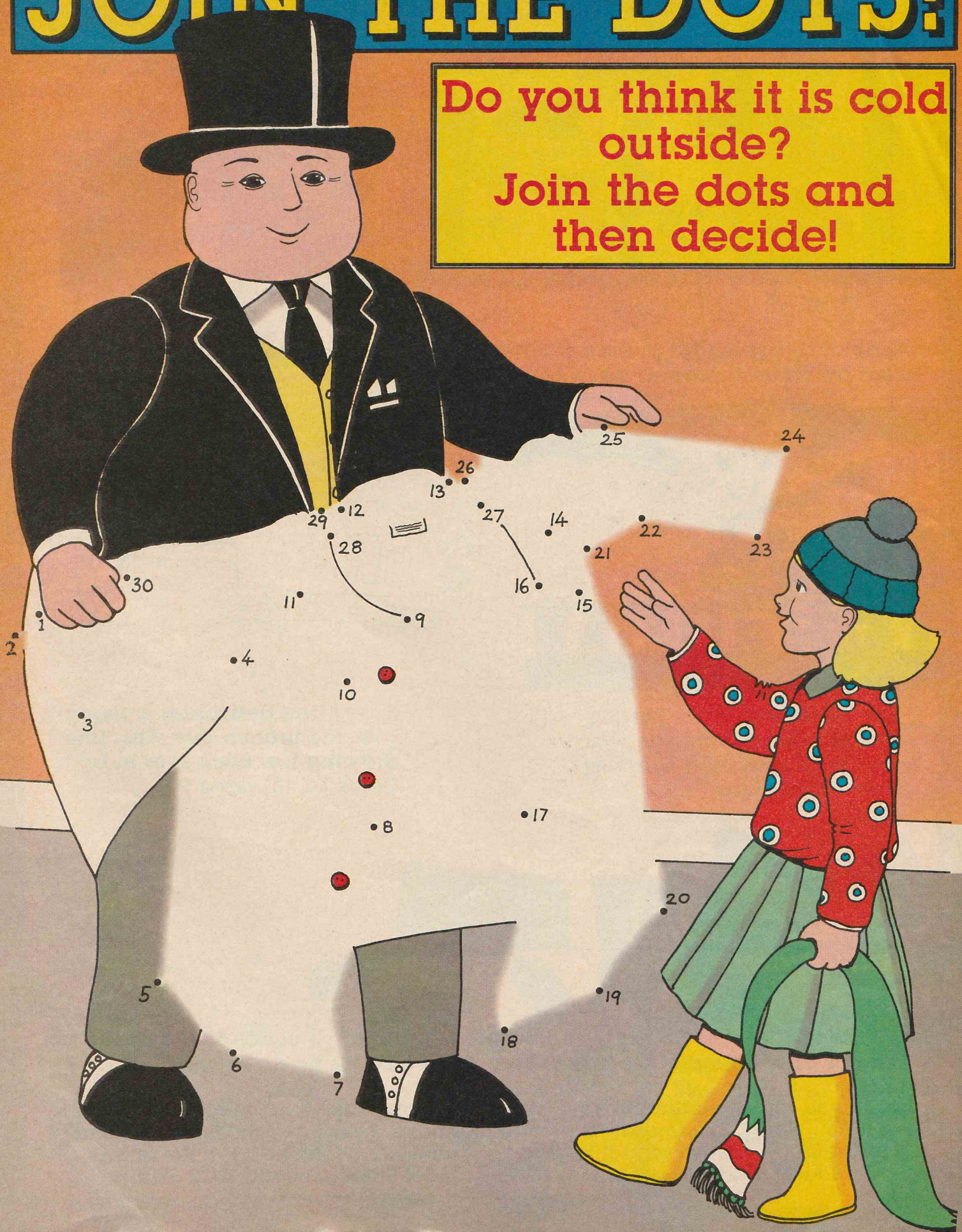
COLOURING TIME!

**Thomas has enjoyed the wedding day,
So colour him in without further delay!**



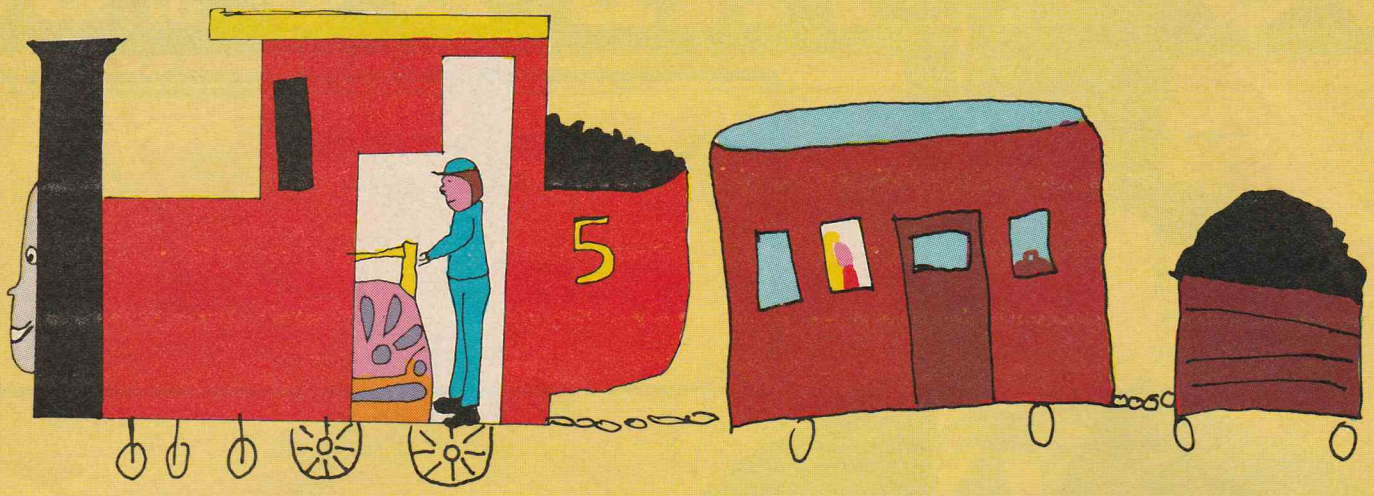
JOIN THE DOTS!

Do you think it is cold outside? Join the dots and then decide!



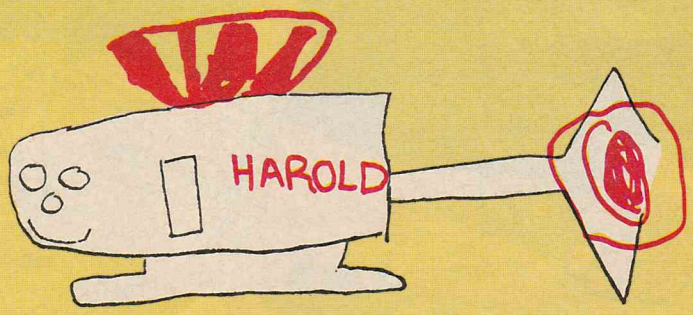
THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURE PAGE!

Look at these bright pictures! Has yours been printed!

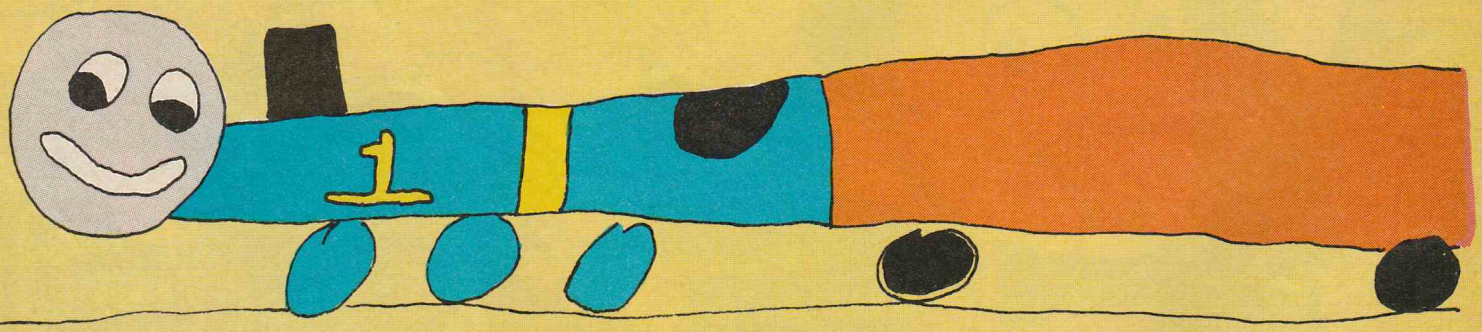


Look at this splendid picture of James pulling his coaches! This drawing was sent by Victoria Barnes, aged 8!

This picture of Percy puffing through the countryside was sent to us by Ashley Bramley from Nottingham.



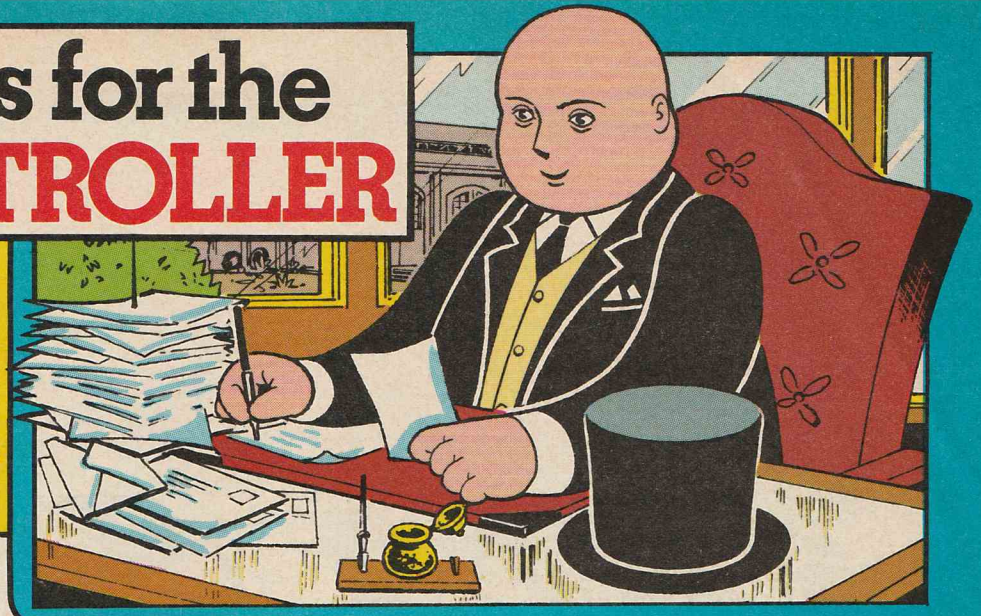
Harold the Helicopter is flying over the branch line. This fine drawing has been sent in by Collis Tooth, aged 9.



This is Thomas the Tank Engine. He is pulling his coaches along the branch line. This picture has been coloured by Catriona Bennett, aged 8.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: The Fat Controller (Picture Page), the Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

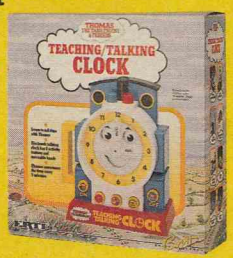
STAR LETTER!

"Happy Reader!"
Dear Fat Controller,
I'm writing to you from hospital where my dad has read lots of Thomas the Tank stories and they have really cheered me up. Can you say a big thankyou to Thomas for being such a happy engine?

Love from **Tom Curry**, aged 4!

I certainly will thank Thomas on your behalf. I'm sure he will be very pleased that some of our most exciting stories have helped to make you happy during your illness!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Teaching Talking Clock** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



SPLENDID STATION!

Dear Fat Controller,
Recently, I travelled on the City of Truro steam engine when it visited the Bodmin and Wenford station. This was a special trip for me because I was born in the City of Truro in Cornwall!

Love from **Curtis Watkins**, aged 2.

I must say! You couldn't have chosen a more scenic route to travel on. I do believe that it is also a very busy line as many engines travel between Bodmin General and Bodmin Parkway Stations in mid-Cornwall!

THOMAS'S LINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have been to **Liskeard** on the train from **Leeds**! Has Thomas been on that line?

Love from **Adam**, aged 5.

Thomas has never been to the Liskeard line! He mostly works on his own branch line on the Island of Sodor!

BIRTHDAYS!

Carl Westrop, Simon Breakingbury, David Freeman (37981), Vincent Potter, Liam Royle, Duncan Folkes, Neil Maclachlan, Adam Samways (4743), Matthew Haddon (5849), Matthew Peter (32878), Martyn Normanton (18584), Simon Pettitt, Jaimee Tester (18865), Gareth James Pedley, Gary James Lougheed (628), James Ferrara, Liam Spencer, Gary Brown, Christopher Pummell, Shaun Philip West, Paul Beard (39794), Paul Commons (39203), Timothy Major.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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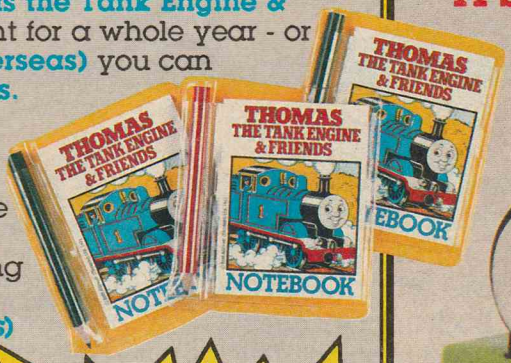

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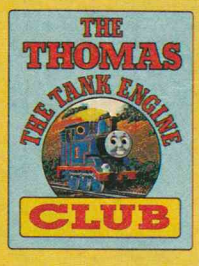

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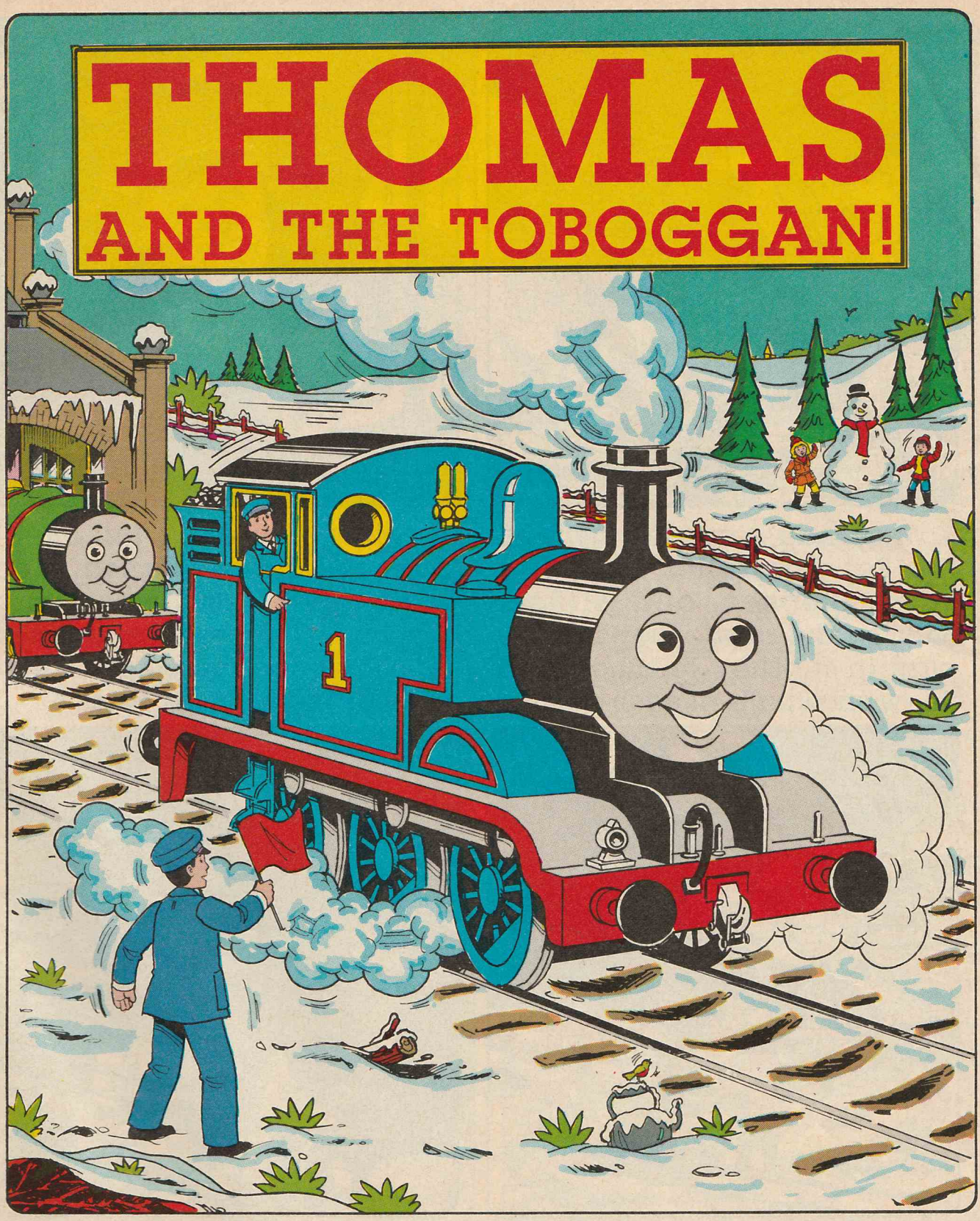
THOMAS AND THE TOBOGGAN!

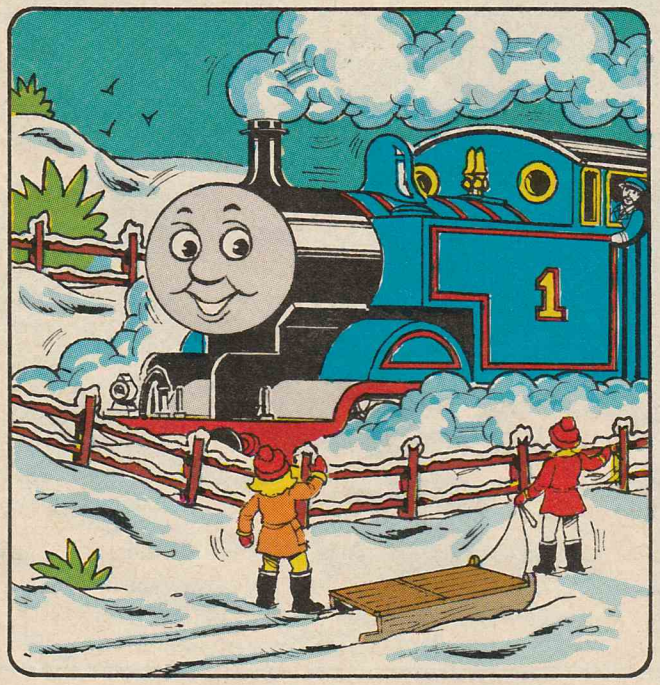


1. It was a cold, winter's morning on the Island of Sodor. In the engine shed, Thomas woke early. Outside, the yard was covered in snow and big icicles hung from the shed roof.

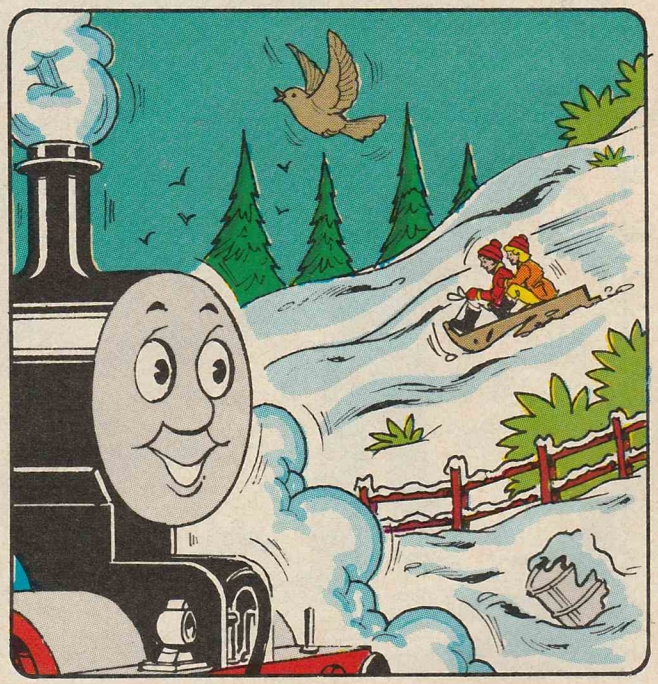
2. Thomas's fireman arrived to light his boiler. Thomas felt much warmer. Later, he rolled into the yard and saw Stephen and Bridget, the Fat Controller's grandchildren.

3. They had come to stay with the Fat Controller for a few days. Stephen and Bridget enjoyed the snow. They liked to play in it. They laughed and threw snowballs at each other.

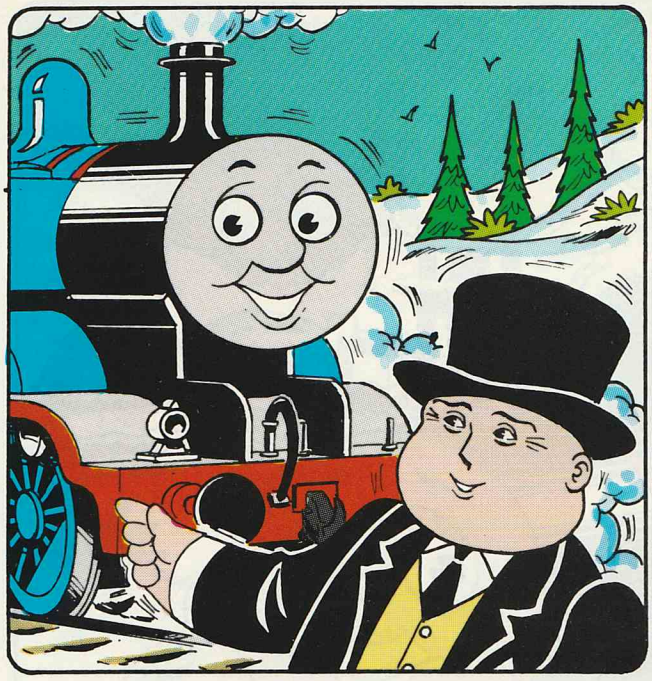
4. "Mind you don't fall over!" Thomas's driver warned. "The snow and ice was very slippery!" "This weather is grand to go tobogganing!" they replied. Thomas was puzzled.



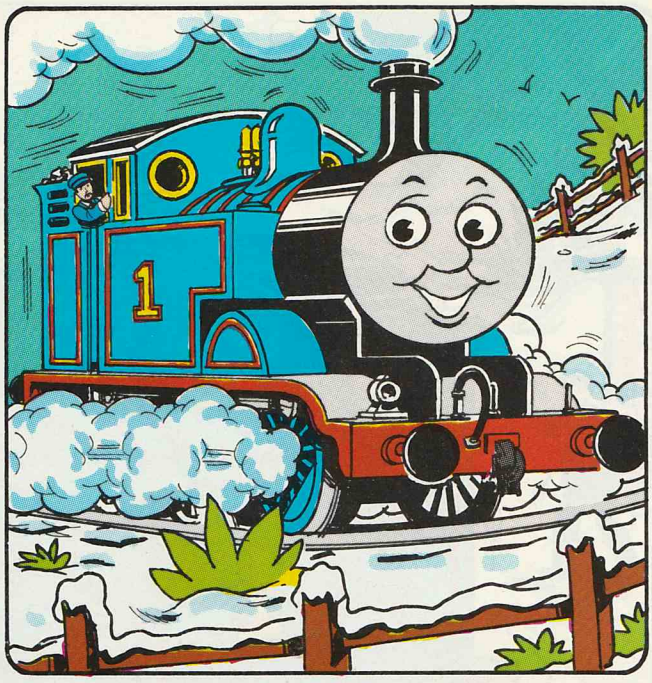
5. "What's that?" he asked his driver. Before the driver could answer, Stephen and Bridget fetched a low wooden seat built on runners. "The engineer made this toboggan for us!" they said.



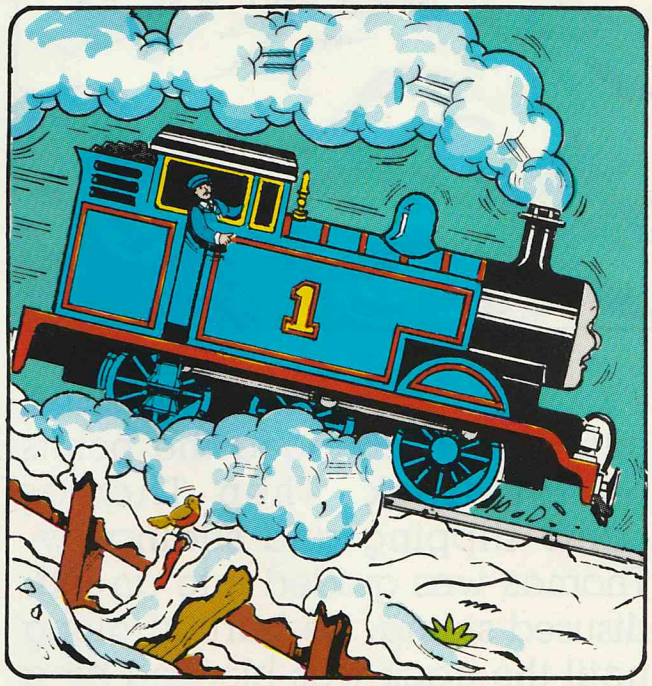
6. The children sat on it and slid down a snowy slope. "Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas eagerly. "So that's tobogganing!" Thomas thought it looked good fun. He wanted to try it, too!



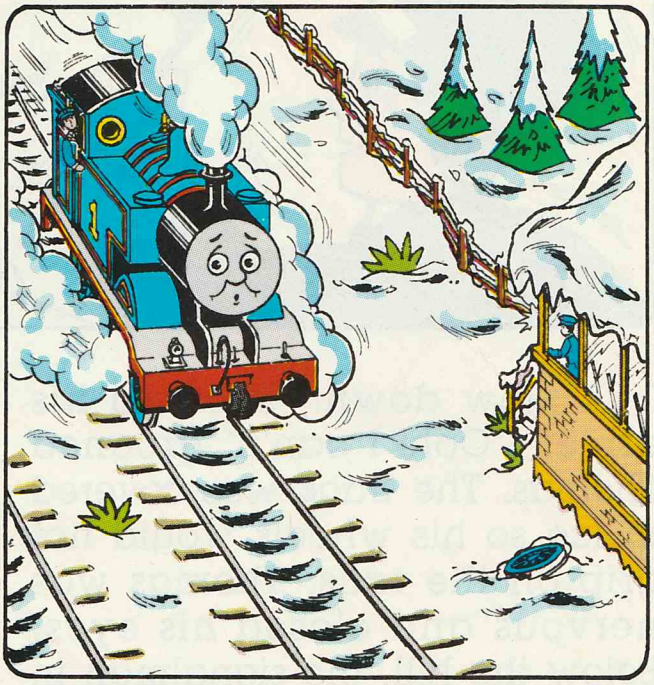
7. "I wish engines had runners and not wheels," he said. "Then I could slide like a toboggan!" The Fat Controller arrived. He asked Thomas to collect some trucks from the Harbour Yard.



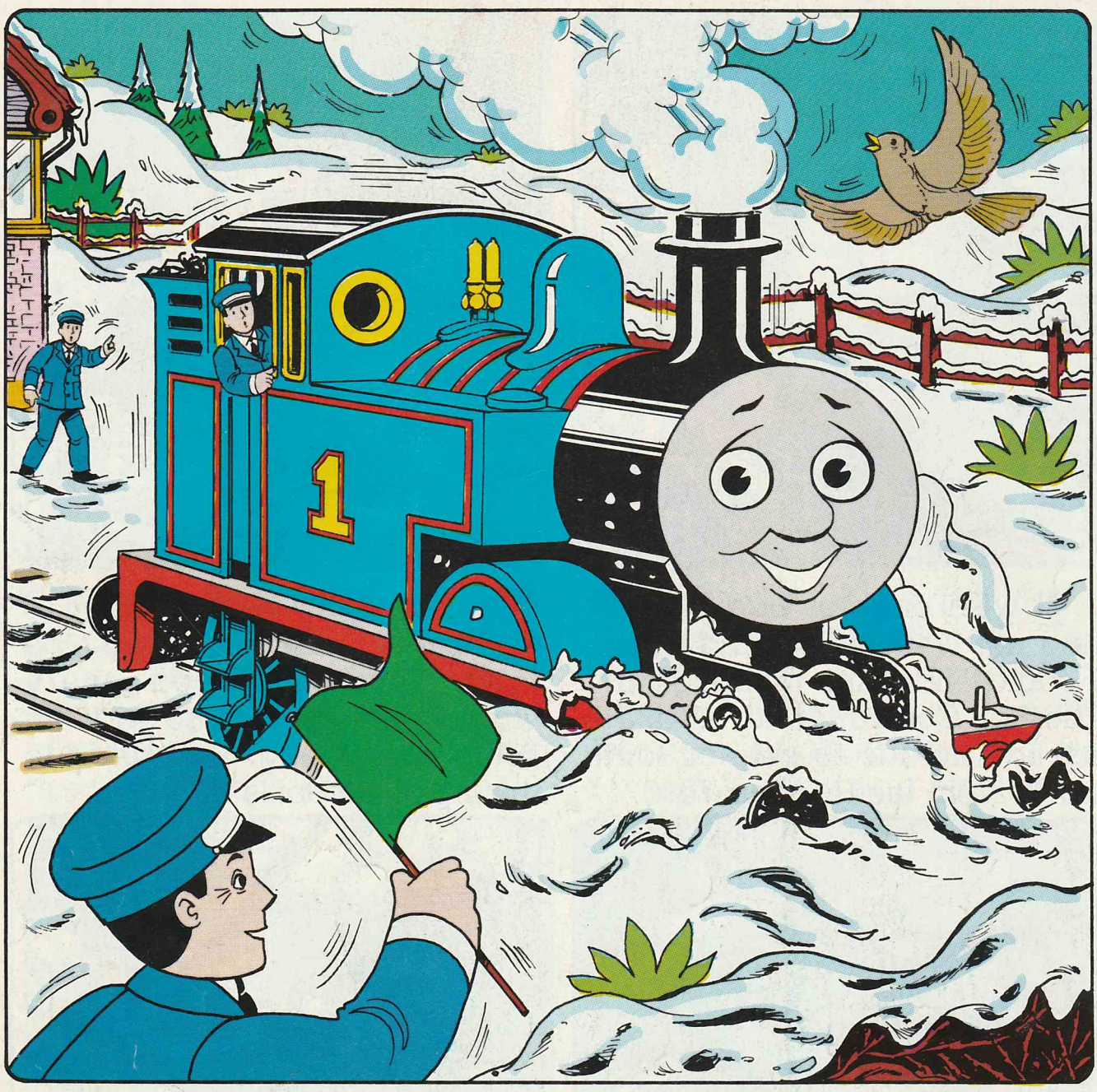
8. "Go carefully!" warned the Fat Controller. "The track may be icy!" Thomas hoped there would be some ice so that he could slide along. He puffed to the top of Gordon's Hill.



9. As Thomas rolled down the other side, he felt his wheels begin to slip. "Peep! Peep! Look at me!" cried Thomas excitedly. "I'm sliding like Stephen and Bridget did on their toboggan!"



10. At first, Thomas thought it was very thrilling to whizz down the hill. Faster and faster he went. Then Thomas felt nervous. His driver braked, but Thomas did not stop.



11. "Slow down!" shouted his driver. "Ooh! I can't!" groaned Thomas. The track was covered in ice so his wheels would not grip on the rails. Thomas was nervous and closed his eyes. Below the hill, the signalman in the signalbox saw what was happening. He knew the signal ahead was at stop. "Thomas must not pass it until the line is clear," he thought.

12. The signalman hurried outside and changed the points on the track. Then Thomas came slipping and sliding by. Thomas was guided into an old, disused siding. He hurtled along until the track was blocked by a huge snowfall. WHUMP! Thomas ran into it. "I'm glad I have wheels, after all!" he sighed with relief. "Engines aren't meant to go tobogganing!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the church bells!